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Sarah Mulhearn

smulhearn@lhc.la.gov

225.763.8895 (w)

225.603.3896 (c)

Homelessness in Louisiana Has Fallen 63 Percent over the Past Four Years

BATON ROUGE, LA – A new [report](#) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development shows that homelessness in Louisiana has declined nearly 12 percent since last year and has fallen roughly 63 percent since 2010.

“It only costs on average \$37 a day to help someone who is homeless in Louisiana find a permanent home with supportive services,” said Nicole Sweazy, Administrator of the Louisiana Housing Authority which operates under the umbrella of the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC). “It actually costs more money to do nothing than it does to help these individuals.”

There are an [estimated](#) 4,606 homeless people in Louisiana this year, compared to 5,226 last year and 12,482 four years ago. Baton Rouge and New Orleans have the largest concentrations of homeless individuals, and New Orleans has seen the largest decline in its homeless population.

One of the key factors in reducing homelessness in Louisiana has been the state’s implementation of the \$146 million Permanent Supportive Housing Program. The program, which was funded through the federal Gulf Opportunity Zone Act, provides housing to homeless individuals in the form of rental assistance averaging \$700 a month.

The Permanent Supportive Housing Program has so far been limited to reducing homelessness in the southern region of the state. This year the LHC will be able to expand its efforts statewide with the award of \$8.2 million in federal Section 811 funds.

“This additional funding will help us tackle homelessness across Louisiana,” said LHC Executive Director Fred Tombar, III. “We will initially target our efforts in Shreveport, Alexandria and Monroe and will eventually be able to branch out to the rural areas of the state.”

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The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) was created by Act 408 of the 2011 Louisiana Legislative Session. The LHC administers federal and state funds through programs designed to advance the development of energy efficient and affordable housing for low- and moderate- income families.